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Title: Blackrock Analysis

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This book devotes itself to the study of the nature and various applications of the material known as blackrock.

While many have frowned upon the active study of this mysterious substance (including quite a few members of Lord British's court), I believe that the potential power and danger that the substance of blackrock offers to us demands that it be carefully studied. Some have pointed out that all that have studied Blackrock extensively have gone mad or lost their grip on reality to some degree or another. This is a personal subject for me and I shall speak on it later.

### Physical Traits

The mineral Blackrock has several interesting traits. It is a very dark ore that seems to absorb light in greater abundance than it should. It is polished, even after breaking. It cleaves along crude and somewhat random crystalline patterns. It

is fairly rare in occurrence and is typically found around roughly 8 heights below ground in mountainous areas. What is odd about the distribution of Blackrock is that it seems to appear and disappear in areas at random and when it is present, it exists in small, highly concentrated formations. Blackrock can be excessively dense at times - tougher than any known ore - while at others it can be quite malleable. It is not clear what triggers this transition or what affects the density of the ore, but some have speculated that the substance manifests itself as it pleases. Because of the excessive density that blackrock is capable of possessing, one might think that it would be a suitable ore to craft with. Indeed, a breastplate made of blackrock could be an incredible boon for the wearer, perhaps even more so if the wearer is a mage, but consider this: If the density of blackrock is both unpredictable and uncontrollable, how long would that breastplate stay in a usable shape? Most likely, it would become as soft as cloth in the depths of some awful dungeon.

## Occurance

As stated earlier, blackrock occurs and

disappears at random. Sometimes it will stay for less than a day after being discovered while other times it has been known to stay in one place (though not always in the same shape or density) for many years. Blackrock is quite rare and even when discovered is found only in isolated quantities. It should be noted that the necromantic reagent known as blackmoor is a mixture of dirt and blackrock.

Necromancers claim that blackmoor yields power to spells, but I am not one to verify or refute the authenticity of these claims. If they were proven to be true, the chaotic nature and sheer essence of blackrock could quite definitely be used as a source of power, though it would probably be unstable and dangerous.

### Magical Properties

As previously mentioned, Blackrock is both unstable and tremendously powerful. It exhibits many chaotic behaviors and has a very powerful magical presence. Despite the apparent magical nature of the substance, it is not affected by magic. That is to say that if a spell is cast at blackrock, it is simply absorbed by the mineral. This may be an indirect argument

for the magical nature  
of Blackrock.

Consider: If there  
exists a material that  
does not respond to  
magic at all, can't  
this material be  
considered magically  
sensitive since it  
chooses to abstain  
from responding in  
the presence of magic?

This effect is  
probably achieved by a  
localized disruption of  
the magical ether.

Such an effect would  
render a mage  
totally inept and  
could theoretically  
disrupt incoming  
spells as well.

At any rate, blackrock  
exhibits  
characteristics of  
consciousness. It  
chooses when, where,  
and in what shape it  
appears. It chooses  
what signals it  
ignores and what  
signals it responds to.  
The fact that the  
necromancers claim it  
as part of a vital  
reagent, blackmoor,  
also lends credibility  
to the magical nature  
of the material.

Additionally, various  
madmen and darklords  
have sought it for  
dark and evil purposes  
such as the for use  
in the spell of  
armageddon.

### Structural Integrity

As I have stated  
numerous times before,  
blackrock is a chaotic  
material in all aspects  
of existence. It is not  
to be trusted or relied  
upon unless there is

no other choice  
present. Blackrock is  
evil and chaotic. It is  
the tool of madmen  
and dark lords.

Due to this chaotic  
and unpredictable  
nature,  
Blackrock has been  
known to  
spontaneously combust.  
That is to say that  
one minute a  
blackrock vane in the  
mines of Minoc could  
be sitting peacefully  
in a somewhat  
normal-looking shape  
and then suddenly the  
mineshaft bursts  
into flames!

Some have been able  
to trigger this effect  
on command through  
the use  
constructed wands.

However, these  
individuals seldom  
lived to tell the tale  
and I know of no  
such wand in  
existence today. it  
should be noted that  
these wands were  
originally constructed  
to control blackrock's  
structure, not destroy  
it. The basic premise  
behind the wand was  
that it manipulates  
and realigns the  
magical ether and  
focuses a directed  
stream at the  
blackrock formation.

The explosive force of  
blackrock is something  
unparalleled by  
conventional explosives  
and I've only seen a  
few mages replicate  
such an inferno. The  
destructive power of  
blackrock provides yet  
another reason why it  
should be regulated by  
Lord British.

## Erosion of Minds

Most mages and scholars that have studied blackrock or have had prolonged exposure to it have wound up losing their grip on reality. Some have merely gone insane while others have lusted after the power they once sought to understand and control. The degree to which the erosion occurs is directly related to the quantity, density, and duration of exposure. Fortunately, the effects of blackrock insanity seem to be short-term. If the afflicted person is isolated from blackrock for a prolonged period of time, recovery will occur on a larger timeframe than initial exposure. I can personally attest to these things and urge the reader to give Blackrock the proper respect it deserves.

-Xellos the Sane